



Bill Haller

FEB 28, 1935 - AUG 20, 2022



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Bill Haller

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William Edward “Bill” Haller, 87, of Vandalia, formerly of Lockport, passed away on August 20, 2022 at the VA Medical Center in Marion, IL.

An open house honoring the life of Bill Haller will be held from 1:00-3:00 PM, Saturday, August 27, 2022 at the Brownstown VFW Post 9770, this will be a casual come and go event with formal military honors taking place at 3:00 PM. A service and burial at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery will be held at a later date in Northern Illinois. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Brownstown VFW Post 9770; where Bill was a proud member. Online condolences can be expressed at www.hohltandfilefh.com

William Edward Haller was born February 28, 1935, in Joliet, IL the son of Frank J. and Julia V. (McGee) Haller; raised in Fairmont, a blue-collar neighborhood in Will County. Bill graduated from Fairmont Grade School and Lockport Township High School. He graduated from Joliet Junior College; while there, he excelled in baseball and basketball.

He married Sally Lee Bumber on February 29, 1964; together they raised two children.

Although Bill wore many uniforms throughout his career, the one that made him most proud was the United States Army uniform he wore for 2 years after his enlistment in 1955, including 16 months in Korea.

Following his military service, Bill had a long and distinguished career as a baseball umpire. He began umpiring in 1958; starting his professional career for Major League baseball in 1962. During that time, he worked 3,068 games including 4 All Star games, 4 World Series, and 4 American League playoff series. He even umpired home plate while his brother, Tom, crouched down in front of him as the catcher for the Detroit Tigers; this was the first and only brother umpire/catcher combination in any game in Major League history.



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After his retirement as an umpire, he continued working for Major League Baseball as the assistant supervisor of umpires; a scout for the Chicago White Sox and New York Yankees; and initiated the MLB umpire development program, where he remained until 1994.

Bill was well known in Major League Baseball as a no-nonsense umpire, often referred to by many as "that legendary Major League umpire" but he was much more than that...

Bill was a loving husband, father, and grandfather; he was very involved in the Brownstown and Vandalia communities, was a member of Emanuel Methodist Church in rural Brownstown, honored fellow Veterans by performing military rites, and would treat his friends to MLB baseball games; even with his popularity and successful career Bill remained humble.

He is survived by his wife, Sally Haller; son, Albert (Amie) Haller; daughter, Jenny (Doug Daniels) Patton; grandchildren, Kelsi Haller, Sydney Dial, Brooke Haller, Jessy Patton, Mitchell Haller, and Joshua Patton.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Tom Haller; and sister, Joyce Ganz.



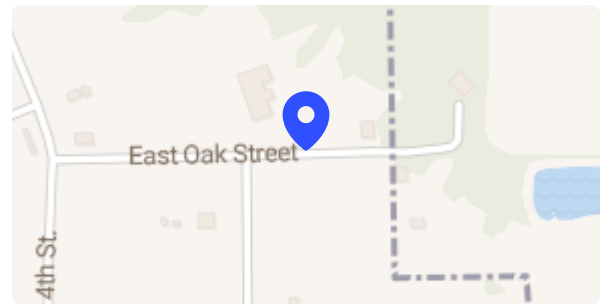
Events

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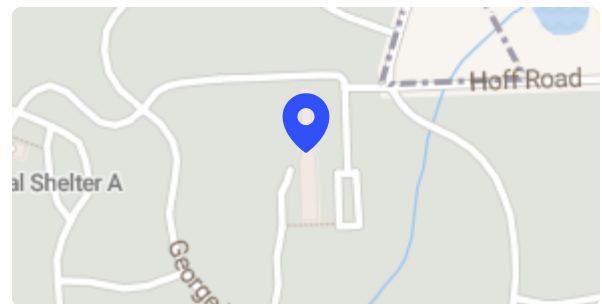
Celebration of Life

- Saturday**, August 27, 2022
- 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM CT
- Brownstown VFW Post 9770**
520 Oak Street, Brownstown IL 62418



Cemetery Details

- Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery**
20953 W Hoff Road, Elwood IL 60421





Tribute Wall

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KQ

Kelly Queen shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



Mr. Haller (aka Uncle Billy) was my dad's best friend in the Army. They toured the country playing baseball while in Korea. I'm sorry I didn't get the pleasure to meet his wife and kids but I'm sending you all my deepest condolences . He was such a kind man. Whenever he would come to Cleveland he would get us great box seats for the Indians and take us out to dinner with him, fellow umpires, and even a few players on occasion. What I remember most was how he would get tickets for my dad to pick the kids at a local orphanage. The two of them would spoil the heck out of these kids which were so deserving of love and attention. Sincerely, Kelly Queen

July 3 at 5:58 PM

MS

Mrs. Sheila (Mike) Sasso posted:

Really "tall" in humor...ability....service...friendship...as well stature. I'm sure he and Tom will be swapping stories once again with other friends from Will Co.

August 31 at 5:59 PM

JL

Joe Lavelly posted:

Knew him in Junior College Bugsy was a really nice guy.

August 27 at 9:26 AM



Dorothy Seaborg posted:

My husband, Corky Seaborg, went to school with Bill (also know as Bugsy) and I knew all the Haller family in Lockport. My sincere condolences to his wife and family.

August 27 at 4:14 AM

CO

Cheryl Oertwig posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Cheryl (Chatham) Oertwig & Family

August 26 at 3:21 PM



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JM

Jamie Mccleary posted:

Aunt Sally, Albert, and Jennyl am so heartbroken on the loss of Uncle Billy. He was such an incredible man and I have many fond memories of him while growing up. He will truly be missed by everyone who knew him. May you find peace in all the memories you have of him. I love you all and you are in my prayers.

August 25 at 9:36 AM

PM

Pastor Don Thomas & Wife Marlys posted:

We want to convey our deepest sympathy to the family. Bill was one of a kind - always friendly and helped lead the singing at the Emmanuel Church in the past. He was indeed a very humble person, telling us that his being a major league umpire was "just a job". We will miss seeing him at the Memorial Day services at Brownstown, IL.

August 24 at 4:26 AM

DS

Dave Schumann lit a candle in honor of Bill.

I grew up in Lockport, lived next door to his Aunt Hildred. Remember Bill visiting her in the off-season, he would bring my brother and I autographed baseballs. Bill and his brother Tom are legends in the Lockport/Joliet area. Here is a link to a YouTube video of a MLB game back in 1980. Bill goes toe-to-toe with the legendary manager Earl Weaver. Warning! There is graphic language, but Bill Haller, the quiet but tough kid from Fairmont, never backs down. May he Rest In Peace. <https://youtu.be/f6cmqUTPn08>



August 24 at 2:09 AM

GC

Geoff And Jodi Craycroft posted:

Always smiling! His love for his family, friends, sports and our little community will never be forgotten. He was such a good man with a kind heart.

August 23 at 4:16 PM



Anonymous sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Haller family.



August 23 at 3:04 PM



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Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Haller family.



August 23 at 11:02 AM



Bobbye Eulberg lit a candle in honor of Bill.



August 23 at 8:52 AM



Bobbye Eulberg posted:

Jenny, Albert and Sally. What an amazing man...wonderful father and friend. Always in our hearts now. He shared many stories with us in our home. We loved his visits. He always brought me candy to my workplace on his visits. May God comfort all of you in the days to come. Love and prayers for all.

August 23 at 8:51 AM



Kathy Dunn posted:

RIP Bill, you will always be remembered as the guy who got my little brother, grandfather and aunt and uncle to Yankee Stadium. Say hello to them for us, please. Condolences to Sally and family
Kathy (Williams) Dunn

August 23 at 8:08 AM



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Harold & Donna Johnson posted:

Albert & Jenny; PRAYERS are with all. I'm so sorry we will not be able to come on Saturday, but our thoughts and prayers are with you all. May you priceless memories and faith in GOD, bring you comfort.

August 23 at 6:45 AM



Michael Green August 29 at 3:34 PM

I did not know Mr. Haller, but I watched his work as an AL umpire, and he was one of the best I ever saw. My sympathies to his family and friends.



Shari Jaworski August 23 at 4:25 PM

What an honor to know Bill. Always had a hug for me. Always asked about our boys. Always honked the horn when he came by the house. Always had a wonderful visit with him. Praying for Jesus to give Sally, Albert, Jenny and the rest of the family peace, comfort and healing for your broken hearts. Tony & Shari Jaworski



Rich Garcia August 23 at 11:17 AM

Sally,Jenny/AlbertSo sorry to hear about my dear friend and mentor. Our condolences from our family to yours.Bill Haller made such a positive impact not only in my umpiring career but in my life. He taught me things off the field my dad couldn't help me with. On the field he had my back(100%) always. You never ever doubted that Bill would be there for you.The times we spent together have never been forgotten and they will never be forgotten.May God bless Bill and cradle him in his arms. May God bless his family (Sally,Jenny/Albert)Love You BillRichie Garcia



Media

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Kelly Queen shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

July 3 at 5:58 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Bill by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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